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## Palestinian businessmen vote

HEBON, occupied West Bank (AP) — Hebron's businessmen voted Tuesday in the broadest election allowed by Israel in the occupied West Bank in 15 years and one seen as a test for democracy for Palestinians. The election was supposedly non-political, but one man said he voted for the Muslim party Hamas. Another said he checked with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to see if he could take part. While the vote was only for a chamber of commerce board, Israeli officials have said they were watching it as a guide for allowing similar balloting elsewhere or even a renewal of municipal elections last held in 1976. No violence was reported as about 1,700 businessmen lined up to vote at a girls' secondary school in this city of 80,000 population, a seat of Muslim conservatism. Israeli policemen and soldiers watched from about 20 metres away. Results were not expected until early Wednesday.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

**Abu Taleb visits U.S.**  
AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb left Amman Tuesday for the United States on an official visit during which he will hold talks with military officials on matters of interest to the Armed Forces.

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## New government could be announced today or tomorrow

## Masri in intense contacts with potential cabinet colleagues

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Consultations continued Tuesday between Prime Minister-designate Taher Masri and the different parliamentary blocs as well as independent personalities to form a government which would include about 10 Lower House deputies but will exclude the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Deputies who met with Mr. Masri on Tuesday morning and in the evening told the Jordan Times that they were left with the impression that the prime minister-designate had not made up his mind on the final make-up of the government or if he had he was not telling them.

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## Mubarak visits Kuwait, says Egypt to join security force

KUWAIT (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left Kuwait on Tuesday after a brief fence-mending visit and confirmed his troops would join a planned Arab peacekeeping force for the Gulf. "We shall discuss the requirements of our Arab brothers and take the appropriate accordingly. We agree in principle to take part in that force," the official Kuwaiti News Agency quoted him as saying.

It was Mr. Mubarak's first visit to the emirate since a U.S.-led multinational force, which included a 35,000-strong Egyptian contingent, pushed Iraq out in February.

Egypt said last month it was withdrawing its forces amid controversy over their role in the planned defence force.

Mr. Mubarak was greeted at the airport earlier on Tuesday by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and later held talks with him.

Cairo and Damascus, which contributed about 20,000 men to the U.S.-led coalition, had negotiated a security pact with the six gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states under which they would provide the backbone of a regional security force in return for Gulf Arab investment in their cash-starved economies.

The formation of the force was delayed by a reported row over the size and role of the Syrian and Egyptian forces and that of any Western troops in the post-war

Gulf.

Kuwait's crown prince was quoted as saying in remarks published on Monday that regional security lay in the presence of Arab troops, not Western ones.

"The hope (for security) lies, not in the presence of foreign troops, but in the agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council with dear Egypt and sister Syria."

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told the Cairo daily Al Akhbar.

Experts from Egypt, Syria and the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain — met in Doha, Qatar, Monday to discuss the accord to prepare for next month's foreign ministers' meeting in Kuwait.

Kuwait said last week that it still felt threatened by Iraq.

"Their (the Iraqis') human and military resources outweigh by far those of Kuwait, if they don't have military might now they have the human resources which could cause us a headache," said Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Western diplomats say talks on the make-up of the Arab defence force have progressed. One suggestion is that it comprise equal numbers of troops from Saudi Arabia and the other GCC states with smaller contingents from Egypt and Syria.

They said that the total force could number about 26,000 plus the Kuwaiti army to deter any fresh attack by Iraq which had a

million strong standing army when it invaded last August.

Mr. Mubarak's visit to Kuwait follows that of another of the emirate's saviours, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, whose dramatically improving relations with Iran have added a new factor to Gulf security.

Iraq, which was neutral in the Gulf war, is eager to play a key role in any regional security force and opposed any long-term foreign military presence in the Gulf.

Under pragmatic President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran is ending its self-imposed isolation. It is rapidly improving its relations with the Gulf states it was accused of trying to destabilise during Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's 10-year rule.

Western nations, including the United States, which provided most of the troops for Operation Desert Storm, are winding down their presence in the region.

Washington is understood to be setting up forward command headquarters in the Gulf where it is believed to have established weapons storage facilities in case of any future war in the region.

Arab states were furious at the disclosure that similar U.S. sites were being set up in Israel.

The Kuwait News Agency said Mr. Mubarak flew from Kuwait to Bahrain where he was met by the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa. Both visits were previously unannounced.

Initial estimates were as high as \$150 billion but these have been scaled down because the extent of damage caused by bombing and sabotage was not as grave as originally thought.

## Liberation cost Kuwait \$22.6 billion

KUWAIT (R) — The liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation cost the emirate \$22 billion, Minister of Finance Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan said in remarks published on Tuesday.

He told Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper: "The total cost incurred by the state budget for the liberation of Kuwait reached \$22.6 billion."

This figure is nothing compared to the return of Kuwait to its legitimate owners and the restoration of legitimacy."

The minister was thought to be referring to the cost of financing the U.S.-led multinational force that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate in February.

Kuwait has said it will pay the United States total of \$18.5 billion for its contribution towards Operation Desert Storm, \$5 billion in 1990 and the rest in 1991.

The minister's brief statement did not make clear whether he was referring to the 1991 calendar year budget or this year's.

The cost of repairing war damage to infrastructure and the dousing of hundreds of oil wells set ablaze in the war is estimated at \$20 to \$30 billion.

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## Algerian government takes office under state of siege

ALGIERS (R) — A new Algerian government took office on Tuesday, replacing one sacked on June 5 after fundamentalist unrest. Several key figures have retained their posts but the majority are new.

With the country now under a state of siege, new Prime Minister Ali Ahmad Ghosn kept Major-General Khaled Nazzar as defence minister and left untouched the sensitive justice portfolio. In the hands of Ali Benflis.

"There is a core of continuity and experience which is very important under the state of siege. A lot of the other names are fairly unknown but Ghosn seems to have kept his word on forming a fairly neutral government," said one Western diplomat.

One commentator pointed to the absence of any leading members of the main political parties or people known to be close to the Islamic fundamentalist movement whose protests derailed general elections originally due on June 27.

The prime minister says the government's main task will be to prepare for free and fair general elections this year.

The main opposition Islamic Salvation Front, which led the protests, said the electoral laws were rigged in favour of the National Liberation Front, once Algeria's sole political party.

With the new government likely to be short-lived, because of parliamentary elections later this year, Mr. Ghosn's main success is seen as attracting Lakhdar Ibrahim to the Foreign Ministry.

"Ibrahim is very well respected internationally, at the United Nations and for his work in Lebanon. He is probably the

best known Algerian diplomat in the world today," said one western diplomat.

The new foreign minister takes over Mr. Ghosn's old job in the Maloued Hamrouche administration, sacked two weeks ago when President Chadli Benjedid called in the army after clashes between police and the Muslim fundamentalist protesters.

At least 14 people were killed in the unrest. Western diplomats said the death toll was between 40 and 50.

Mr. Ibrahim is currently assistant secretary general with the Cairo-based Arab League. He was the main trouble-shooter for Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco when they made up a league committee which helped end Lebanon's 16-year civil war.

His appointment is expected to help allay overseas concern about Algeria's future, evident in a message to Mr. Benjedid this week from Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy, Algeria's main trading partner. Italy has agreed to provide \$7.2 billion in credit to the North African country.

Andreotti said, "The (system) in Algeria concerns all countries, and particularly Italy..."

French commentators have also expressed fears about the impact of an Islamic fundamentalist state on the large Algerian community living there.

## MOSCOW rejects report of missile deal with Israel

MOSCOW (R) — The foreign ministry has discounted reports that Soviet officials had offered to sell Israel a system to replace U.S.-made missiles used to intercept Iraqi missiles used to intercept Iraqi missiles used to intercept

"I have no official information on this," ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a news briefing.

"I don't know what Soviet specialists might say in a personal capacity with representatives of other countries at an international event, but it is apparent that such a deal could not take place without due account of the Soviet government."

Israeli officials at the Paris air show on Sunday told Reuters that top Soviet specialists had offered to provide Israel with a system superior to the U.S.-made Patriot missile used to knock out Iraqi Scud missiles during the war.

Noah Shachar, spokesman for the Israeli defence ministry's arms development branch, said a manager of a Soviet state industrial corporation had made the offer during two meetings.

He said the offer was unprecedented and that the Soviet officials made clear that "everything (in their arsenal) is on the market."

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The sources said several rounds of rifle fire hit UNIFIL's field hospital, but there was no casualties or damage.

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Diehl McKain, director of operations in the Defence Security Agency, said the sale would "probably look different" because of president's arms control initiative and said details of Saudi needs would not be known before the autumn.

On other issues, Mr. Kelly said the United States had talked frequently to Kuwait about recovery from the Iraqi invasion.

He said U.S. officials had suggested full adult franchise in elections.

He also said the United States and the international community would be expected to act again in the Middle East to repel aggression if it required.

The Lebanese Forces command said in a statement that the explosions were caused by "an act of sabotage that targeted a truck which was carrying ammunition from a depot in fine with an agreement with the government."

"A bomb exploded in a truck, which led to detonating the ammunition loaded on the vehicle and to a chain of explosions in ammunition set for loading. This resulted in a number of casualties," the statement said.

The area was a traditional stronghold for the Lebanese Forces militia until government troops moved into the Kesrouan province and other areas May 1 that fought each other for over 16 years of civil war.

## Israelis ambush guerrilla squad in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — An Israeli army patrol ambushed guerrillas in South Lebanon early Tuesday, killed two of them and captured a third in an ensuing clash, security sources said.

They said a fourth guerrilla escaped and the Israelis launched a major search for him, but had not arrested him several hours later.

One of the sources said the identity and affiliation of the guerrillas was not known, but that "they apparently were on their way to attack a target inside Israeli territory."

The Israelis opened fire at the car about 1½ kilometres north of

the border. The passengers responded with automatic weapons fire.

But as the driver of the BMW was trying to manoeuvre a hairpin curve at high speed, the car overturned.

The guerrillas climbed out of the car and continued to fire at the Israelis. Two guerrillas were killed and the third was arrested in the four-hour battle.

The Israelis sealed off the region and sent foot patrols in search of the escapee.

The command of the 5,800-

## Mideast arms freeze discussed and rejected

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. State Department official defended U.S. arms sales to the Middle East Monday and said a freeze on sales had been discussed and rejected.

Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly was responding to congressional critics of new sales at a time when the Bush administration, under prodding from Congress, has announced it will seek to control the regional arms race.

Pending legislation being debated in Congress would place a moratorium on U.S. sales of major weapons in the region while the United States sought to work out an international agreement

on controlling such exports.

"Why not say, 'let's stop right now sending conventional arms to the region?'" Democratic Representative Lee Hamilton of Indiana, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, asked Mr. Kelly.

Mr. Bush's announcement was followed by the disclosure that the United States intends to transfer new weapons to the region, including 20 Apache attack helicopters to the United Arab Emirates and eight to Bahrain.

Mr. Hamilton said these and other arms transfers under U.S. control on arms restraint.

The administration is planning a multi-billion dollar arms sale to Saudi Arabia that had been postponed last year.

States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — The Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — at a meeting in France next month.

Mr. Bush's announcement was followed by the disclosure that the United States intends to transfer new weapons to the region, including 20 Apache attack helicopters to the United Arab Emirates and eight to Bahrain.

Mr. Hamilton said these and other arms transfers under U.S. control on arms restraint.

The administration is planning a multi-billion dollar arms sale to Saudi Arabia that had been postponed last year.

and mortar bombs flew hundreds of metres from the wrecked depot.

The militia, led by Samir Geagea, blamed the blasts on an "act of sabotage" but did not accuse any particular group.

Niam Khalil, 43, the truck driver, said he did not know the fate of his seven colleagues who were loading the ammunition.

His face, hands and clothes were covered with black dust and he repeatedly choked while talking.

Mr. Khalil said the depot was in the basement of an unfinished building.

A dozen explosions shattered glass and inflicted some damage on cars in a three kilometres radius. Residents rushed to basements and bomb shelters as the

Shrapnel from exploding shells

shells exploded.

Jean Pierre Daou, who was having lunch at a beach restaurant, said he first saw a "huge flash. It was like part of the sun. Then I heard the explosion."

As the witnesses were interviewed on the southern entrance to Maamelein, ambulances and fire engines with sirens wailing sped to the area in an effort to evacuate casualties and combat the blaze.

A wooded hill stretching from Maamelein to the hamlet of Adma, east of the coast, was on fire. A cloud of smoke hung over the region as hundreds of civilians escaped the area.

The police spokesman said at least 12 explosions were reported in the depot spaced over 40 minutes.

## 5 killed in ammunition blast in Lebanon

JOUNIEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — At least five people were killed and 20 wounded by a huge explosion at a militia ammunition dump in north Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said.

The explosion, near Jounieh to the south, was followed by up to a dozen smaller blasts lasting almost an hour.

Panic-stricken civilians ran along a road near the ammunition depot, screaming for help and news of missing relatives and friends, as black smoke billowed over the sea.

Security sources said the initial blast occurred as men of the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia were loading ammunition from the underground depot onto trucks.

Shrapnel from exploding shells

and mortar bombs flew hundreds of metres from the wrecked depot.

The militia, led by Samir Geagea, blamed the blasts on an "act of sabotage" but did not accuse any particular group.

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# Home News

## RJ to fly to Colombo

AMMAN (Petra) — The national airline Royal Jordanian (RJ) plans to open a route to Colombo, in Sri Lanka, in the coming month in the course of its well-planned expansion scheme to boost the airline's operations and services to all countries, according to an announcement Tuesday by RJ Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh.

The national airline sustained \$100 million losses as a result of the Gulf crisis which broke out last August, but through new programmes and activities it is bound to make up for the losses, said Mr. Abu Ghazaleh in a statement.

"In fact, the past two months of operations proved that RJ had regained its momentum speedily, a good indicator for improvements ahead," the RJ chief noted.

"Plans for new routes are carefully worked out after feasibility studies, and RJ is sure of its capability to grow and contribute most beneficially to the national economy," Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said in reply to a question about current expansion plans.

"It is true that the RJ sustained losses during the Gulf crisis, but so did other airlines, for the same reason," he said.

"The resumption of RJ flights to Beirut, Monday, manifested the airline's determination to go ahead with plans to restore full momentum and open new routes, according to studied plans," Mr. Abu Ghazaleh added.

Replies to a question about the idea of transforming RJ into a public share-holding company, Mr. Ghazaleh said that was a mere idea in the course of an overall revision of policies. "RJ contacted a number of international firms in order to help study this prospect, but the whole matter was postponed indefinitely following the eruption of the Gulf crisis last August; once the government is convinced of the idea, the RJ management can take a proper decision in this regard," Mr. Abu Ghazaleh pointed out.

Towards the end of last month, an RJ statement denied as groundless reports that the airline was holding contacts to reach a deal with Air France or other foreign airlines with the purpose

of enlisting their participation in RJ's capital once it has been transformed into a public share-holding company. The statement said that RJ had prepared a feasibility study on this project, in 1988 with the help of some firms, but no further steps were decided upon.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh denied that RJ was contemplating the idea of returning a number of leased aircraft due to the current economic recession. "Such allegations and rumours are mere speculations and not true," he said.

"RJ is keen on constant modernisation of its fleet of aircraft and leasing aircraft is one of the options open to the airline, like all other airlines, depending on expansion and modernisation plans," he noted.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday meets with outstanding graduates

## Prince Hassan urges excelling students to serve the nation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at Al Hussein Youth City Tuesday with a group of graduates, from the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, who excelled in their performance and received the highest grades among this year's graduates.

The Prince congratulated them for their achievements, urging them to pursue their efforts for higher learning and increased efforts to serve their nation.

Addressing the graduates, the Prince reviewed the university education system in Jordan and various challenges and problems facing the graduates in their quest to get employment or pursue their post-graduate studies here and abroad.

The Crown Prince called on the graduates to form a special group whose members could take charge of following up on the future plans of the graduates regarding employment or higher studies.

The Prince cited Jordan's cooperation with Germany and Japan and said that Japan had offered Jordan \$50 million to help it promote its educational system. He expressed hope that further aid would be forthcoming to promote the country's health and social development programmes.

Prince Hassan urged universities and concerned authorities to give due attention to vocational training for under-graduate students provided such training is linked to the local community's needs.

The Prince referred to the experiments of Germany and Japan in the post-war era in this respect, and called on concerned authorities to follow in their footsteps towards achieving the reconstruction of the country.

Speaking at the meeting were the presidents of the two universities who voiced their appreciation for Prince Hassan's directives.

## To graze or not to; controversy over goats comes to a head

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The controversy that surrounded a decision taken a few months ago by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh to open forest areas for goats to graze on came to a head this week when a top Jordanian environmental official challenged the minister's decision and showed journalists the kind of damage freely grazing goats have caused the environment recently.

In March of this year Mr. Alawneh allowed, for the first time, goats and sheep to graze in forests that are 15 years old or more. "The goats could eat from trees, that could rejuvenate themselves and by so doing cause damage to the environment," Dr. Muasher said.

"In addition, the droppings of the sheep and goats benefit the forest and the animals take care of eliminating the dry weeds which have caused many forest fires in Jordan," the minister had said in support of his views.

Mr. Muasher said that a great deal of controversy surrounded the subject of damage goats cause. "I think it is time that we bring in some experts in the field of forestry, either from Jordan or abroad, to resolve this debate," Dr. Muasher said.

According to studies by professors of forestry it has been proved that goats are "a forest's worst enemies as they graze on trees up to two metres of the trees' heights. Goats also eat saplings, new growths and gnaw the bark of trees. They also graze on particular areas over and over until they no longer have the ability to rejuvenate themselves. Often, goats expose the roots of trees to direct sunlight, cuts, peeling, pressure and death," the professors wrote.

Journalists Sunday were taken on a tour of forests grown and cared for by the RSCN in order to show them the damage that goats had done to those forests. Of the three forests toured, one, the Litzab forest, was damaged to near elimination. According to Mr. Muasher, there were 10,000 trees planted on the 200-dunum six year old forest. Only 20 of these trees remain today.

"Shepherds have broken through the protective wire surrounding the Litzab forest and this is the result," Dr. Muasher said.

On the few trees scattered around, the traces of damage were apparent. The goats, which eat anything, had eaten the bark of the trees and bitten

into their pulp. "This damage to the bark means that food will not be able to go to the top branches of the tree and it will soon die," Dr. Muasher said.

He added that the major problem now was controlling the phenomenon. "We have a problem on our hand now, because it is extremely difficult to tell shepherds their flocks are no longer permitted to graze in places for which they have permits from the Minister of Agriculture," he said.

Another informed source, speaking on condition of not being identified, said that the underlying perception among shepherds was that trees that do not bear fruit are useless and can be sacrificed for food to their flocks. "This attitude is ridiculous because the leaves of trees and the shade they provide are in a sense a fruit. But many shepherds help the grazing goats and bring down out-of-reach branches or break them so that their flocks can feed on them," he said.

Mr. Meyer said that funding the forestry sector in Jordan, by the German government, would continue as "we would like to do more for Jordan."

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Informed source at the Ministry of Agriculture said that advertising affected the resulting controversy. "When it was advertised to shepherds that they will be permitted to take their flocks into forests they did not realise there were limitations and thought that all forests were accessible to their goats. The result was that goats were allowed into young forests and the effect was disastrous," he said.

The official, who preferred anonymity, said that it was obvious after this year's experiment, allowing goats to graze in forests, was far more damaging than expected. "This was the first year that goats and sheep were allowed to graze. Because the grazing was not controlled in any way, the results were dramatic.

He said that unfortunately, goats fed on the new growth on trees causing great damage.

## King Hussein honours National Charter panel

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday honoured the chairman and members of the Royal Commission who drafted the National Charter, endorsed by the general congress on June 9, and, in a message to the chairman, Ahmad Obeidat, the King voices his deep appreciation of commission's effort.

According to a Royal Court statement King Hussein conferred on Mr. Obeidat the Jordanian Al Nahda Medal of the Supreme Order, and other medals on the commission members.

In his message to Mr. Obeidat, King Hussein said that he was conferring the medal in recognition of this achievement and as an expression of the nation's gratitude for the great endeavour the commission had taken and the efforts it exerted to draft the charter.



commission, the King noted, "emerged in the form we had wished," serving the people of Jordan without any discrimination and constituting an umbrella for their dialogue designed to attain further achievements and to safeguard the national interests," King Hussein noted.

This charter, the King added, has been blessed by all members of the Jordanian family and by all political groups and schools of thought because it was designed to serve the whole nation.

King Hussein said that he was looking forward to further achievements by his people and noted that the medals were an expression of confidence in Mr. Obeidat, whom the King described as one of his closest advisors, and in the other members of the commission who participated in the creation of the National Charter.



PRINCESS BASMA VISITS ORPHANAGE: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Tuesday stressed the importance of cooperation between public and private sector institutions in advancing the social development march and improving the levels of services offered to the needy families.

Princess Basma was speaking at a meeting with the Administrative Committee of the Hussein Welfare Society, attended by Social Development Minister Yousef Al Athem. The minister called for

exerting every possible effort to enhance cooperation among the social services institutions in Jordan, and noted that the ministry had drawn up plans to improve the levels of services provided by such institutions and to upgrade their programmes. The Princess later toured the society's child care centre, Princess Basma Orphanage, Princess Alia Orphanage, and other facilities. Al Hussein Development was established by the Ministry of Social Development in 1971. It now cares for 150 children aged 0-12 years.

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## Show to benefit SOS children

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of the SOS International Day, celebrating the birthday of the founder of the SOS Children's Villages Hermann Gmeiner, the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan will be present Amalia Abu Saleh and Theeb Abu Saleh in a comedy show specially directed for children and youth.

The two-hour show will also include the magician Mahmoud Alawneh, well known for his magical tricks that he got acquainted with in India and practised in different parts of the world.

The group will be performing one show only in Amman at the Palace of Culture on Thursday, June 20, and all proceeds will go to the benefit of the SOS Children's Village Amman that takes care of orphaned and abandoned Jordanian children in family-like atmosphere.

## Gulf Peace Team members denied entry in West Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two persons of a Gulf Peace Team which took part in a walk from Jerusalem to Jordan earlier this month in support for peace between Israel and Arab countries have been denied return to the occupied Arab territories for their participation in that walk.

A Gulf Peace Team official in Amman told the Jordan Times that the two, Jim Douglass, from Birmingham, Alabama, and John Reuwer, from Virginia, in the United States, were denied entry into the occupied territories when they tried to make the trip back to Jerusalem on Monday.

The decision to ban the two U.S. citizens from returning to Jerusalem was taken by the Israeli Interior Ministry and a border guard ordered the two Americans back into Jordan, according to the team official.

"All I did was walk for peace, I have committed no crime," said Mr. Douglass in reply to the official.

Mr. Douglass was one of the 23 peace activists detained in the West Bank by Israeli troops and charged with failure to comply with military orders.

The peace walkers believe that under international law the occupation force has no grounds for arresting or charging people in the occupied territories.

Mr. Reuwer supported the

**WHAT'S GOING ON**  
EXHIBITIONS  
★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukini, Mohammad Al Jalouz and Rifa'i Al Razzaz at Abdil Hamed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)  
★ Palestinian heritage exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.  
★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.  
★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.  
FILM  
★ An introduction to the abstract films of the twenties at the Goethe Institute (films shown include commercials from the twenties and Hans Richter's "Everyday").



## Features

### Masri in intense contacts

(Continued from Page 1)  
him a marginal majority in a vote of confidence count in November when the regular session of Parliament is reopened.

Analysts maintain that the Brotherhood has also used the pretext of the differing views on the Palestinian issue to withdraw from the government after they calculated their gains and losses during their six months in Mr. Badran's government.

"When they entered Mr. Badran's government they knew that the government also abided by Jordan's general policy on international legitimacy regarding the Palestinian problem; what made them to it then?" one analyst asked.

Mr. Masri met with the Muslim Brotherhood representatives in the morning but no details were immediately available of the details of the meeting. A report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Tuesday referred to a meeting between Mr. Masri and Dr. Abd Al-Latif Arayyal, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and member of the Muslim Brotherhood, but the agency was vague on the aims and content of the meeting.

Sources had told the Jordan Times Monday that the movement was expected to demand from Mr. Masri a pledge against negotiations with Israel in addition to their 14-point list of conditions which they wanted Mr.

Badran to abide one-and-a-half years ago. The list of demands ranges from applying Sharia law to banning the sale and manufacture of liquor in the country.

The premier-designate also met with the five-member Liberal parliamentary bloc, which, according to a source within the bloc, expressed interest in participating in Mr. Masri's government "but only if our conditions were met." The source, however, did not reveal what these conditions were.

He said that his bloc did not have fundamental objections to Mr. Masri's appointment as prime minister but maintained that the final decision of his group "largely depends on the people he appoints as ministers, whatever they are deputies or from outside the Parliament."

The seven-member Democratic bloc also met with Mr. Masri but although they expressed their willingness to support his government, sources said they wanted their participation to be considered that of their umbrella coalition, the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA).

The sources added that in their meeting with the premier-designate the bloc members requested two ministerial posts but did not receive an answer from Mr. Masri in response to their request.

JANDA is a coalition of leftist and independent personalities and representatives of political parties in the country.

Mr. Masri also met with the members of his own National Parliament.

Details of that meeting were not immediately available but sources said Monday that the National Bloc was expected to extend its support to Mr. Masri. It is also expected that the final cabinet list would include prominent members of the National Bloc.

According to highly-informed sources, certain ministerial positions have already been allocated although the list was not final. The sources predicted that the new prime minister will also assume the portfolios of defence and foreign affairs.

Candidates mentioned by the sources for different portfolios: Jawaad Shboul (the governor of Amman) for interior; Khaled Karaki (minister of culture and youth) for information; Abu Raghbeh (former president of the contractors association) for the Ministry of Industry and Trade; Hisham Khatib (former minister of energy) for energy; Raef Nijim (former minister of public works) for Awqaf and Islamic affairs; Abdul Karim Dughmi to stay at labour; Jamal Sarayrah to stay at transport; Abdulla Nasour and Salim Zoubi (both deputies) are also nominated for posts in the new government.

"You confessed that you were a member of the Palestine Liberation Front (a pro-Iraqi group) and that you were trained to use weapons. Is that true?"

Judge Jawad Jassim Al Abdullah asked Amin.

"No sir, this is not true. It did not happen ... the police forced me to say what they wanted me to say ... they were hitting me hard with iron bars and chains. I had to say that, sir, believe me I had to say that," Amin replied.

He said he was detained at a Kuwait City hospital after taking the body of an aged neighbour who died of a heart attack to the morgue.

Hamed Mousa, an 18-year-old Palestinian student, was also accused of joining the same organisation. Mousa, whose case was also adjourned, protested his innocence and said he had been forced to make false statements.

There is no appeal under martial law, but the martial law governor, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah must approve all sentences in consultation with three judges from the court of appeals.

Tuesday's death sentences brought to 21 the total death sentences issued since the collaboration trials began May 19.

Such sentences are carried out by hanging.

The earlier sentences included three Jordanians, two Palestinians, two Lebanese, a Kuwaiti woman, two stateless Arabs and three whose nationality was not known, according to the AP.

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Today's

## Wimbledon seedings controversial

LONDON (Agencies) — Wimbledon officials angered women's champion Martina Navratilova as they ignored grass-court form and stuck rigidly to current world rankings as the basis of the seedings announced Monday.

Navratilova, who on Sunday won the Birmingham Grass-Court title, is seeded only fourth for the tournament which starts next Monday despite being Wimbledon champion nine times.

The American dashed through her opening match against South African Amanda Coetzer 6-0 6-1 in just 84 minutes at the Eastbourne warm up tournament and then snapped: "I don't know how many times I have to win the Wimbledon title."

"They probably seeded me fourth because I've lost on clay. Anyway, I don't want to talk about it any more."

The Wimbledon policy also meant there was no place in the 16 men's seeds for former champion Pat Cash of Australia, recently very impressive after returning from lengthy injury which has left him 35th in the world rankings.

Nor is there place for American David Wheaton, who won through to last weekend's final on grass at Queen's before losing to current Wimbledon title-holder Stefan Edberg.

But it is the seeding in the women's section that will provoke the most controversy.

Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, the world number one who has yet to prove she is as good on grass as she is on clay and hard

courts, is the top seed with former champion Steffi Graf of Germany second and Argentina Sabatini third.

But almost all the top women have said recently they would not be surprised or upset if Navratilova, one of the greatest grass court players in the history of the game, was top seed.

Zina Garrison, who beat both Seles and Graf on her way to the final last year, may also feel that being seeded eighth this year is hardly justice.

Among the men there will be no dispute with the top three: Edberg of Sweden, former holder Boris Becker of Germany and Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl.

But after that there is much room for argument.

Seeded fifth is American Andre Agassi, a great player on clay and cement as he has proved in reaching the finals of the French Open twice and the U.S. Open in the past 13 months.

But he has played at Wimbledon only once, in 1987, when he was knocked out in the first round.

Others who might not have been named had the seedings been based on grass court form are American Michael Chang (seeded ninth), Spaniard Emilio Sanchez (11th), Russian Andrei Cherkasov (12th) and Czech Karel Novacek (14th). All four are noted clay court players.

Meanwhile, the top two men's seeds, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, drew challenging opponents Tuesday for their first-round matches at the Wimbledon tennis championships.

Edberg, the top seed, will face



Martina Navratilova

women's draws, with six seeded men and five seeded women.

The Press Association, a British news agency, referred to the seedings as the work of "faint-hearted Wimbledon officials" who refused to consider players' abilities on grass.

"It is a great shame the all England officials have not had more courage, because the seedings could lead to a completely lopsided draw if all the dangerous grass-court floaters are clustered in one half," the Press Association said.

Edberg, Becker, given challenging first-round matches

Meanwhile, the top two men's seeds, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, drew challenging opponents Tuesday for their first-round matches at the Wimbledon tennis championships.

Edberg, the top seed, will face

hard-serving Marc Rosset of Switzerland, ranked no. 34 in the world. Becker, three-time Wimbledon champion, will play former Davis Cup teammate Carl Weis of Switzerland.

In the last three years Edberg, now world no. 1 and Becker, no. 2, have faced each other in the finals. Edberg won the last year and in 1988. Becker won in 1989.

McEnroe, seeded 16th, drew little-known Jaime Orcin of Brazil as a first-round opponent and will face a qualifier in the second round if he advances.

Among the women, top-seeded Monica Seles has a first-round match against Sabina Appelmanns of Belgium, and no. 2 Steffi Graf plays Monique Javer of Britain.

Third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini will face Barbara Rittner of Germany. Nine-time champion Martina Navratilova, seeded fourth, drew Elina Reinach.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## Navratilova, Sabatini rule themselves out of Olympics

LONDON (R) — Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova and world number three Gabriela Sabatini have effectively ruled themselves out of next year's Barcelona Olympics Tennis tournament. Czechoslovak born American Navratilova and Argentina's Sabatini have snubbed the federation cup world team championship in Nottingham from July 21 to 26, and that officially bars them from the games. An International Tennis Federation (ITF) spokesman said Monday: "The Olympic rules state a player must be in good standing with her national association and the ITF." "The criteria for being in good standing include the provision that a player should make herself available for the federation cup in 1991. Neither of these players has made herself available." "We don't think it's too much to ask of them. It is after all only asking the players to represent their country for one week in four years." World number one Monica Seles, who is keen to play in the Olympics, has changed her mind about the federation cup and will play for Yugoslavia. Steffi Graf will lead the combined German team.

## Francis named as Sheffield Wednesday manager

LONDON (R) — Trevor Francis, Britain's first £1 million sterling player, returned to soccer management with newly promoted Sheffield Wednesday on Monday. The former England international replaced Ron Atkinson who quit the English first division club to join Aston Villa last week. Atkinson recommended Francis as his successor at Hillsborough. He took him to Wednesday 15 months ago when Francis was sacked as player manager of Queen's Park Rangers. Francis, 37, lasted only 11 months as Rangers' boss. His hard-line management methods brought him into conflict with his players, some of whom he branded selfish and irresponsible. Francis, who has signed a two year deal, said: "I have learned from the mistakes I made at Rangers. We all make mistakes and we should all learn from them. I am here to manage the team, but if I find it necessary to play I will do so."

## Taylor gives U.S. engine maker first IMSA victory in five years

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Wayne Taylor took the lead just after the halfway point of the Mardi Gras Grand Prix and was ahead by almost a minute when rain washed out the final 15 minutes of the race through downtown streets. Taylor, driving a Chevrolet Intrepid, produced the first IMSA victory in five years for an American engine builder. "It was really treacherous out there. It was not much fun driving and then a lot of water came into the cockpit and the pedals were hard to use," Taylor said. Taylor took the lead during pit stops in mid-race. He led from lap 42 on, completing 81 laps with a lead of 57.788 seconds over Geoff Brabham's Nissan. Jeff Turner, in a Chevrolet Spice, finished third. David Tennyson in a Mazda Tiga was fifth overall and first in the Camel Lights division. Taylor averaged 111.126 mph (181.742 kph) and pocketed \$95,000 for his first victory in 21 career starts on the International Motor Sports Association circuit. The Chevy intrepids have challenged in each race, winning four poles and finishing in the top five each race, including three seconds.

## Nude 'Olym-picks' coming to rural Maryland town

DARLINGTON, Maryland (AP) — Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are all contestants will wear in this week's 'Nude Olym-picks.' In the tradition of ancient Greek athletes, about 1,000 contestants will strip to compete in the four-day event, which begins Thursday at a campground in this town 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Baltimore. "The original Greek Olympic athletes understood the free feeling of nude competition for over 1,600 years," said organizer Michael Gesner of Broadway, New Jersey. "We want to provide a chance for anyone to share that great experience for themselves." Gesner's tri-state club won the team championship in last year's inaugural nude games near Philadelphia, and is organizing this year's competition at a private campground here. Events include track, swimming, tennis and volleyball. The non-athletic can win medals in fishing, body-painting, backgammon and trivia.

## Medical advisory council to determine if 6-ounce gloves be banned

DALLAS (AP) — The head of the International Boxing Federation said he has instructed his medical advisory council to look into a weekend junior bantamweight title bout in Texas and determine if the use of six-ounce (170-gram) gloves should be banned in the future.

"Many jurisdictions in South America, the Orient, Europe, where they have small guys fighting, they have always used six-ounce gloves, and this is the first time we have ever had a hullaballo over it," IBF President Robert Lee said Monday from IBF offices in East Orange, New Jersey.

Kid Akeem Anifowoshe, a Nigerian living in Las Vegas, began vomiting blood and collapsed after losing a 12-round unanimous decision Saturday to Robert Quiroga of San Antonio.

Anifowoshe regained consciousness Sunday at Baptist Medical Centre in San Antonio after undergoing emergency surgery to relieve pressure on the brain. His condition remained critical but stable Monday.

"I am not sure if the gloves had anything to do with this fight. It was a hard-fought battle and both fighters were banged up pretty good," Lee said.

"On the same card, two others fought with six-ounce gloves and they were not banged up so bad. If it happened in one case, why didn't it happen in the other?"

"But our main aim is to make the business safe, and we have to rely on medical people and people with good, old-fashioned horse sense to point us in the right direction," Lee said.

Quiroga also went to the hospital after Saturday's fight and was released after treatment for

head injuries he suffered in the bruising, bloody fight.

"I'll never fight again with six-ounce gloves," Quiroga said after making his third successful title defense.

"I'll ask the IBF to stop doing it. This is my fourth fight with six-ounce gloves and we just don't need them. You can score as much and fight the same kind of fight with eight-ounce (220-gram) gloves," Quiroga said.

The state of Texas prohibits the use of gloves under eight ounces, but waived the rule because of the IBF mandates their use on all weight divisions under 127 pounds (57 kilograms). After the fight, Texas officials said they did not believe another fight with six-ounce gloves should be permitted in the state.

"These are smaller fighters, their frames are smaller, and if they have to hold up heavier gloves, maybe that two extra ounces (57 grams) gets to them as the fight goes on," Lee said.

"But I've alerted my medical advisory council to the controversy and they will be contacting Texas officials to see what the prognosis of the fight was, and what recommendations they may have."

"I'm not going to say that we are going to make a change, but we're willing to look at any recommendations that are made by medical people, and to do what is appropriate."

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"I'll never fight

# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1991

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 17/6/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 15/6/91
Sterling Pound	1.6260	1.6190
Deutsche Mark	1.7947	1.8066
Swiss Franc	1.5425	1.5543
French Franc	6.3925	6.1555**
Japanese Yen	140.67	141.02
European Currency Unit	1.1445	1.1344**

USD Per STG

\* Euro Opened at 8:00 a.m. GMT

\*\* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 Dm or equivalent

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 18/6/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.30	6.06	6.31	6.81
Sterling Pound	11.37	11.15	10.87	10.75
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.87	9.03	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.93	7.81	7.68
French Franc	9.87	9.57	9.31	9.75
Japanese Yen	7.93	7.71	7.45	7.50
European Currency Unit	9.95	9.87	9.90	9.81

\* 21 March

\*\* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 Dm or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 18/6/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm**	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	368.25	6.95	Silver	4.42	.10

\* 21 March

\*\* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 Dm or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 18/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.656	.658
Sterling Pound	1.1107	1.1163
Deutsche Mark	.3797	.3816
Swiss Franc	.4417	.4439
French Franc	.1119	.1125
Japanese Yen	.4867	.4891
Dutch Guilder	.3371	.3388
Swedish Krona	.1051	.1056
Italian Lira	.0510	.0513
Belgian Franc	.01851	.01860

\* For 100

\*\* For 100

Other Currencies Date: 18/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	.0745	.0765
Saudi Riyal	.1820	.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1850	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1860
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600
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## De Klerk calls for multi-party conference to prepare transition

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk has called for a multi-party conference to prepare for the drafting of a new South African constitution after the last pillar of statutory apartheid was scrapped.

"The best way to ensure rapid progress ... is to take the next important step along the road of negotiation," de Klerk said after white legislators repealed the 1950 population registration act by 108 votes to 38 Monday.

"That means multi-party talks at a multi-party conference."

De Klerk said the conference — expected to discuss mechanisms, ground rules and a framework for writing a non-racial constitution could be held before the end of the year.

"Do we realise how close we are to the final breakthrough? All who desire peace should begin performing in respect of the negotiating process," he said.

But the government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the country's biggest black movement, could be heading for a showdown at the proposed conference.

The ANC and its allies have said they will not compromise at the talks on their demands for a constituent assembly and an interim government. The government, for its part, has said it will not give up its authority.

"A constituent assembly

elected by a simple majority — which is what the ANC advocates — is definitely unacceptable," de Klerk's chief negotiator, Gerrit Viljoen, said last month.

Analysts say, however, that de Klerk is aware he may have to create some form of interim structure as his government would have an advantage over other parties if it took the parts of both umpire and player in writing a new constitution.

De Klerk has said he favoured bringing selected black leaders into government in an advisory capacity. He has said the present extra-parliamentary leadership who would attend the multi-party talks could set up a forum to thrash out a constitution.

The idea has been rejected by the ANC and its allies, who say no substantive negotiations on a new constitution should take place until each party has tested its support in a non-racial election to decide who takes part in the talks.

The ANC welcomed the scrapping of the population registration act but urged the government to end discrimination in pensions and schools.

It called on the government to explain to the people of South Africa and the international community whether it would continue to have different pensions for blacks and whites, and whether it would integrate all white govern-

ment schools.

"Clearly as long as such blatantly racist practices continue, the population registration act will have been removed in name only, while in reality little will have changed," the ANC said in a statement.

It urged the outside world to keep anti-apartheid economic sanctions until it was clear apartheid reform was irreversible.

The repeal of population registration, and of other pillars of apartheid such as the group areas act and the separate amenities act, meets key conditions set by the U.S. and Europe for lifting anti-apartheid trade and investment sanctions.

The repeat provides for the existing race register to remain in place until a new non-racial constitution comes into force.

The ANC said it was unacceptable that the population registration list would continue to exist and rejected government claims that the list was needed for elections.

It said the three chamber parliament for whites, Indians and coloureds should be replaced by an interim government.

**Japan to review sanctions**

In Tokyo, Japan's foreign ministry said Tuesday it welcomed the decision of South Africa's parliament to end race classi-

fication and that it was reviewing its policy towards Pretoria.

"The abolition of these laws is a historic event in the process of establishing non-racial democracy in South Africa," the ministry said in a statement.

Under the apartheid system, Japanese were treated as honorary whites in South Africa.

**U.S. welcome's decision**

On Monday, Washington hailed South Africa's repeal of the last legal pillar of apartheid as a historic step but said the white government had not met all the conditions for the lifting of U.S. sanctions.

"This is a historic moment for South Africa. With the repeal of the population registration act, an important pillar of apartheid has been eliminated," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

"By repealing the population registration act and earlier this month the group areas act ... the South African government has met a fourth of the five requirements for the termination of sanctions under the comprehensive anti-apartheid act of 1986," he said.

The last remaining condition is the release of all political prisoners, which is a matter of dispute between the South African government and the ANC.

## Baker says West must act to stabilise Eastern Europe

BERLIN (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker urged the West Tuesday to reach out to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union before ethnic tensions threaten stability.

"Our objective is both a Europe whole and free and a Euro-Atlantic community that extends east from Vancouver to Vladivostok," Baker said.

The greatest challenge was the Soviet Union.

Briefing reporters before the speech, Baker also outlined some of the incentives the United States is considering to encourage more radical economic reform in the Soviet Union.

He listed a special Soviet association with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), food distribution and energy projects, help in converting obsolete defence industries to civilian use, more open trade and technical cooperation and business education.

With the collapse of communism, ethnicity had re-emerged as a powerful force in Europe, threatening new divisions between countries and within multi-national states such as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, Baker said.

"These forces cast shadows

over the new democracies," he said. "We need to offer an inspiration, even a goal, to these peoples rediscovering new values upon which they can build pluralistic, democratic and free market societies."

A senior Baker aide, talking before the speech, spoke of a race against time to create structures integrating East and West to offset a tendency towards disintegration in Eastern Europe.

Baker's speech was prepared for delivery to the U.S.-based Aspen Institute, a private foundation that brings together policymakers and experts to discuss international issues.

He suggested the economic, security and political ties that now bind and enrich the United States, Canada and Western Europe could be extended to the Soviet Union, and to East European countries that have recently shed communism.

Ties include NATO, the European Community (EC) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

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over the new democracies," he said. "We need to offer an inspiration, even a goal, to these peoples rediscovering new values upon which they can build pluralistic, democratic and free market societies."

One month before President Mikhail Gorbachev is due to discuss Soviet economic problems with leaders of seven major industrialised powers in London, Baker gave more shape to a package of assistance Washington may be willing to support.

He said as Soviet leaders demonstrate the will to help themselves... then we can and should join them step-by-step."

## Mount Pinatubo calms down

### Philippine refugees still stream towards city, repair work on

OLONGAPO, Philippines (R) —

Philippine families worked frantically to save their homes from collapsing under the weight of ash pumped out by a volcano as refugees streamed into this city next to the sprawling U.S. Subic Bay Naval Base.

Men, women and children stood on roofs shovelling away huge mounds of ash that fell on Olongapo during a series of explosions at Mount Pinatubo in the northwestern Philippines at the weekend.

At least 207 people died in the eruption, 34 of them in Olongapo and two inside subic, including a nine-year-old American girl. A hospital, bridges and the main bus terminal lie in ruins.

Mount Pinatubo has quietened down since the weekend's fierce explosions, prompting volcanologists to recommend cutting its danger zone from 40 kilometres to 20 kilometres.

About three quarters of the houses in Olongapo, 80 kilometres northwest of the capital, Manila, have buckled under the weight of knee deep ash.

"It is going to take six months to a year to recover from this disaster," said local congresswoman Kate Gordon.

"I don't think people should expect too much from the government because the scale is just so big," she said. "The private sector must work with the government to help us cope."

The United States said it would

provide earth-moving equipment from Subic to help clear the roads.

The Philippine navy began shifting supplies up the coast and said it would deliver a million litres (265,000 gallons) of water to Zambales province north of Olongapo in a tanker Wednesday.

Almost a quarter of a million people have fled from the danger zone, taking refuge in 300 camps and evacuation centres set up in Manila and other parts of the northwest.

In and around Manila, social workers and relief volunteers worked round the clock to provide food for about 20,000 victims of Pinatubo's wrath.

Volunteer Fernanda Francisco said the workers cook around five 50-kilogramme bags of rice every meal to feed some 4,500 refugees at the Marikina sports complex on the northeastern edge of Manila.

"We never stop cooking," she said as she supervised another meal of rice and fish in huge pots and casseroles.

### Yeltsin heads to Washington

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, newly empowered by an overwhelming election victory intends to try to calm Western fears of a disintegrating Soviet Union.

Yeltsin, who headed for Washington Tuesday, was elected last week on a platform of radical economic and political reform. He is expected to tell U.S. President George Bush that only more drastic change can bring long-term stability to the Soviet Union.

He is expected to receive a welcome worthy of a head of state, in sharp contrast with his last venture to the United States two years ago.

During that trip, Bush refused an official meeting with Yeltsin for fear of angering his rival, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev. Instead, Bush only "dropped by" a meeting between Yeltsin and a White House official, and used the occasion to praise Gorbachev.

### 2nd stage of Irish talks unlikely before September

SYDNEY (R) — The second stage of peace talks on Northern Ireland may not be held until September, chairman of the talks Sir Ninian Stephen said Tuesday.

Stephen, a former Australian governor-general, said a timetable for the talks had still to be finalised but they would not occur during July or August.

"When I say nothing will happen in July and August I mean nothing after the first or second week in July," Stephen told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in a radio interview.

"Something may happen before then but not nothing during that period," he said.

Stephen could not be contacted to elaborate.

The first face to face meeting for 17 years between Northern Ireland's Catholic and Protestant leaders was held Monday in Belfast.

"I would not be for or against considering a suggestion for their inclusion but as I said it would require full agreement, and then some very careful consideration," he said.

on the diplomat-judge's background with his Unionist party officials.

Stephen said he accepted the daunting task of chairing the peace talks because it appeared that progress could be made in the world's longest running guerrilla conflict, in which almost 3,000 people have been killed and 30,000 hurt since 1969.

"I think it is an extraordinary opportunity that seems to be developing for some progress in what has been for so many years a situation which has shown no progress," Stephan said.

Stephen said he would not develop objectives for the second round of talks until he was fully briefed, and he declined to comment on whether the absence of the Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish republican army, condemned the talks to failure.

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Stephen could not be contacted to elaborate.

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conference at a luxury hotel.

She was presenting an American AIDS fund-raising initiative.

Robert Gallo, the controversial U.S. researcher who has said he discovered the HIV virus, will address the five-day conference on AIDS related diseases.

Gallo and French scientist Luc Montagnier have been battling for years about who was the first to identify the virus.

Meanwhile another researcher reported success Monday in laboratory trials with a version of the controversial drug to treat AIDS.

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) destroys the body's immune system, leaving patients helpless in fighting a host of diseases from pneumonia to extremely rare cancers.

The one approved AIDS treatment is a drug called AZT, which is not a vaccine. It treats symptoms but does not eliminate the virus.

"If you start stamping people's passports you bark back to Nazi Germany," Taylor told a news

organization (WHO) official told the conference that young adults and children in the world's poorest countries will be among the hardest hit by AIDS in the 1990s.

Researchers are increasingly convinced that any AIDS vaccine will prove more effective in slowing the disease's spread in the body after infection than in preventing infection.

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These spikes, called GP 120, attach themselves to the CD4 protein found on the surface of blood cells. CD4 is the main target of the HIV virus. The precursor of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), and acts as a gateway for the infection to enter the cell and kill it.

## Column O

### Thai sulks for 22 years

BANGKOK (R) — A young man, denied a motorcycle by his parents, locked himself in his room and has stayed there for 22 years, a mass circulation Thai-language newspaper has reported.

The parents of Dan Jaimun, who is 42, tearfully asked: "Mother, we

readers of the daily news to come up with ideas on how we can persuade their son to come from his small bedroom where he lives with a lamp, a vacuum toilet. Dan Jaimun's parents said his younger sister had been staying in his room. Meats are left outside the door. His father said when Jaimun got angry in 1972, the parents refused to buy him a motorcycle.

**Topless carwash offers buff and shiny**

TORONTO (R) — Toronto's first topless car wash opened the weekend, offering a 10-minute wash by two topless women for about \$8 dollars (US), including tax and tips.

Police in the Canadian city said the car wash will be investigated to determine if there is any criminal offence involved.

"We're not losing any sleep over it," a spokesman said. The owners could not be reached for comment and an employee at the car wash declined to disclose who the topless washers are.

**Police raise outcry by stripping prostitutes**

BANGKOK (R) — Police in Thailand have touched off an outcry after saying they ordered 13 prostitutes accused of robbing foreign tourists to strip to please the transvestites among them.

The mass circulation *Thai Ram* newspaper said one of its photographers was surprised to see so many people naked when he visited the Bangkok police station where the suspects were held early Monday. The paper quoted Police Major General Rangsit Yanoothai as saying the suspects were ordered to strip so police could photograph them for their files and identify the transvestites.

Television and radio commentators said the police action was a violation of human rights.

Rangsit was quoted as saying police had discovered three transvestites among the suspects accused of robbing foreign tourists in central Bangkok's Lumpini Park. He said the group picked their victims' pockets while embracing them or after slipping sleeping draughts into their drinks.

Rangsit was quoted as saying foreigners usually did not recognise suspects after they had changed dress, but since having sex with a woman and a transvestite was different, photographs of the naked suspects might help identify them.

**Court upholds award to Rock Hudson's lover**

LOS ANGELES (R) — An appeals court Monday upheld an award of \$5.5 million to Marc Christian, former lover of Rock Hudson, who said the film star did not tell him he had AIDS.

Christian, a former AIDS activist, has tested negative for HIV, the AIDS virus, but Judge Robert Devich wrote in the appeals court verdict: "We deal with the ultimate in personal horror — the fear